

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION REGARDING REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

February 13, 2002

WHEREAS, The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a Policy Plan Amendment regarding Stream Protection on October 30th, 2000 that updated stream protection language and definitions that govern the review of development applications; and

WHEREAS, This amendment was not intended to address the full range of stream protection and restoration issues; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, there have been advances in the way stormwater is managed, including managing stormwater as close to the source as feasible, the use of bioretention and low impact site design practices; and

WHEREAS, The County has successfully initiated a Stream Protection Strategy and embarked on a comprehensive Watershed Management Strategy; and

WHEREAS, Watersheds are interconnected, with watersheds for smaller streams forming the watersheds of larger bodies of water; and

WHEREAS, Protecting and restoring watersheds is necessary to the County's goals of protecting water quality and the ecological integrity of its streams; and

WHEREAS, The County's Regional Stormwater Management Plan was approved by the Board in 1989 and has not been reviewed in context with these new initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Waivers are routinely approved administratively during site plan approval because regional stormwater ponds are in the plan; and

WHEREAS, The County does not have adequate funding to construct many of these planned facilities yet development continues, leaving streams in the County with inadequate protection from stormwater and subject to flooding and degradation; and

WHEREAS, When funding is available, the planned regional ponds are being constructed without an adequate analysis of the impact on stream ecosystems and morphology; and

WHEREAS, Recent research demonstrates that such ponds can actually be harmful to aquatic ecosystems and riparian habitat, and may not adequately filter out the pollutants that reach the County's streams; and

WHEREAS, Many of the proposed and current stormwater management facilities and regional ponds maybe inconsistent with our commitments under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act to minimize impact on, restore, and protect the health of tributary streams; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors review and revise the County's Regional Stormwater Management Plan in context of the Stream Protection Strategy and the development of the County's Master Watershed Plan, including necessary amendments to the Policy Plan.

Timeline of Regional Pond Subcommittee Study

Formation of Subcommittee

- Board of Supervisors directed staff to form a multi-agency committee to develop a unified position on use of regional ponds and other watershed management tools (January 28, 2002).
- Environmental Coordinating Committee (a group of managers from County agencies involved in the County's environmental mission) charged the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to convene a Regional Pond Subcommittee to develop a draft Charter and report to the ECC (February 4, 2002).
- Board of Supervisors directed, and the ECC assigned to the Regional Pond Subcommittee, the review of issues raised in a February 13, 2002 resolution from the Environmental Quality Advisory Council concerning regional ponds and stormwater management (February 25, 2002).
- Representatives from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Department of Planning and Zoning, Fairfax County Park Authority, Environmental Quality Advisory Council, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and the County's Environmental Coordinator convened as a Subcommittee and drafted a charter and work plan (March – April 2002).
- Environmental Coordinating Committee endorsed the Regional Pond Subcommittee charter and work plan (April 15, 2002).

Actions of the Subcommittee

- Identified and researched issues; assembled facts and clarified perceptions; reviewed current policies, regulations, and practices in Fairfax County; researched experience of other jurisdictions; reviewed alternatives to regional ponds; prepared 13 research papers to substantiate or refute presumptions and perceptions (April – August, 2002 in bi-weekly meetings).
- Updated the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee on the progress of the Subcommittee (August 5, 2002).

Timeline of Regional Pond Subcommittee Study (Continued)

- Drafted preliminary statement of existing conditions (*Findings*) and a description of an ideal stormwater management program. Began weekly meetings. (August – September 2002).
- Met with a planning group to verify that the Subcommittee was on the right track. The group was comprised of representatives from homeowners associations, business and industry groups, environmental organizations, and others who had expressed interest in the regional pond study (October 16, 2002).
- Presented draft *Findings* to the ECC (October 21, 2002).
- Used input from the ECC and the Planning Group in the refinement of its *Preliminary Draft, Regional Ponds as a Watershed Management Tool*. Included in the report are: *Findings Concerning Regional Ponds* and *An Ideal Stormwater Program* (November 1, 2002).
- Conducted a peer review of its *Preliminary Draft* report by soliciting comments from experts in the field of stormwater management (November 8 – December 3, 2002).
- Publicized a public meeting and opportunity to comment on the *Preliminary Draft* report and to offer suggestions for stormwater management in Fairfax County via a Fairfax County *News Release*, the County's website, two e-mail distribution lists, and a mailing to approximately 300 stakeholders. Posted the *Preliminary Draft* to the County's website (November 1 – December 3, 2002).
- Conducted a public meeting at the Government Center. Agenda included overview of stormwater management, break-out sessions conducted by Subcommittee members on a series of questions, and reports from the break-out sessions. Attendees were provided the opportunity to comment on the *Preliminary Draft – Regional Ponds as a Watershed Management Tool*.
- Formulated recommendations based on the Subcommittee's research and on input from peer reviewers, the planning group, attendees at the public meeting, and other stakeholders. Presented draft recommendations to the ECC for review and comment (February 3, 2003).
- Presented final draft report *The Role of Regional Ponds In Fairfax County's Watershed Management* to the ECC. Final draft included input from the ECC (March 3, 2003).



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Director's Office
12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-5503

V I R G I N I A

November 8, 2002

Dear....

You already may be aware that Fairfax County has established a Regional Pond Subcommittee to evaluate the use of regional ponds as part of its stormwater management strategy. Because you have expertise in the area of stormwater management and in the past have expressed interest in Fairfax County's stormwater management program, we are writing to request your participation in a peer review of the Subcommittee's draft report entitled *Preliminary Draft Report – Regional Ponds as a Watershed Management Tool*, a copy of which is enclosed. This report contains the subcommittee's preliminary findings as well as a summary of the basic concepts of an ideal stormwater management program for Fairfax County. The report also is online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes> under "Regional Pond Draft Report." We look forward to receiving any comments you might have on the report by December 3, 2002 by email to swpdmail@fairfaxcounty.gov or in writing to Director, Stormwater Planning Division, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax, Virginia, 22035.

Background

On January 28, 2002, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors directed staff to form a multi-agency committee to develop a unified position on the use of regional ponds, as well as alternative types of stormwater controls, as watershed management tools. The Board's action was prompted in part by community discussion that arose in conjunction with a special exception amendment application to install the Dartmoor Regional Pond D-40 in the Sully District. The Board has deferred that special exception amendment application indefinitely until the regional pond program is reviewed comprehensively. In addition, on February 25, 2002, the Board directed staff to review the issues outlined in an Environmental Quality Advisory Council Resolution regarding stormwater management.

In response to the Board's requests, the Fairfax County Environmental Coordinating Committee, a group of representatives from County agencies that share in the County's environmental mission, chartered the Regional Pond Subcommittee. Over the past several months, the Subcommittee has been working to: identify the issues; review current policy, regulations, and practices; research the experience of other jurisdictions; and review alternatives to regional ponds. The Subcommittee also is charged with engaging representative stakeholders in discussion, and reporting its findings

and conceptual recommendations to the Environmental Coordinating Committee. The ECC plans to forward a report and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in December 2002.

In addition to requesting your input on the preliminary report, we would like to extend an invitation to you to attend a public meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Auditorium in the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA to seek stakeholder input on the preliminary report as well as on the County's future stormwater management strategy. If you would like to attend, please register in advance by calling the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services at 703-324-5033, TTY 711, so that sufficient materials will be available and the Subcommittee can plan for breakout sessions

Again, we would very much appreciate receiving your input on the preliminary report. Please call either of us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Bouchard, Director, Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES
Co-Chair, Regional Pond Subcommittee
703-324-5500

Diane Hoffman, District Administrator, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
Co-Chair, Regional Pond Subcommittee
703-324-1460



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Director's Office
12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-5503

V I R G I N I A

November 8, 2002

Dear Stakeholder:

Fairfax County has established a Regional Pond Subcommittee to evaluate the use of regional ponds as part of its stormwater management strategy. To seek stakeholder input on this strategy, the Subcommittee will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Auditorium in the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway. The public meeting will provide an opportunity to learn about the current program as well as to contribute ideas to shape the program of the future.

We are writing to invite you to this meeting. Please register in advance by calling the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services at 703-324-5033, TTY 711, so that sufficient materials will be available and the Subcommittee can plan for breakout sessions. Those planning to attend are encouraged to read the preliminary findings of the Subcommittee which are available online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes> under "Draft Regional Pond Report." Comments also may be submitted by December 3, 2002, by email to swpdmail@fairfaxcounty.gov or in writing to the Director, Stormwater Planning Division, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax, Virginia 22035. This report contains the Subcommittee's preliminary findings as well as a summary of the basic concepts of an ideal stormwater management program for Fairfax County. We anticipate that the public meeting participants will include representatives of the various stakeholder groups interested in this issue: citizens, homeowner and civic association officers, environmental groups, land use professionals, and members of the development community. During the public meeting, we will ask the participants to provide their concepts of what the regional pond program ought to include.

Background

On January 28, 2002, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors directed staff to form a multi-agency committee to develop a unified position on the use of regional ponds, as well as alternative types of stormwater controls, as watershed management tools. The Board's action was prompted in part by community discussion that arose in conjunction with a special exception amendment application to install the Dartmoor Regional Pond D-40 in the Sully District. The Board has deferred that special exception amendment application indefinitely until the regional pond program is reviewed comprehensively. In addition, on February 25, 2002, the Board directed staff to review the issues outlined in an Environmental Quality Advisory Council Resolution regarding stormwater management.

In response to the Board's requests, the Fairfax County Environmental Coordinating Committee, a group of representatives from County agencies that share in the County's environmental mission, chartered the Regional Pond Subcommittee. Over the past several months, the Subcommittee has been working to: identify the issues; review current policy, regulations, and practices; research the experience of other jurisdictions; and review alternatives to regional ponds. The Subcommittee also is charged with engaging representative stakeholders in discussion, and reporting its findings and conceptual recommendations to the Environmental Coordinating Committee. The ECC plans to forward a report and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in December 2002.

We hope you will be able to attend the meeting and provide your comments on the preliminary report as well as your ideas for incorporation into the future Fairfax County stormwater management program. We all have a stake in environmental stewardship. We hope you will take this opportunity to bring your ideas to the table!

Carl Bouchard, Director, Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES
Diane Hoffman, Administrator, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
Co-Chairs, Regional Pond Subcommittee



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Director's Office
12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-5503

V I R G I N I A

October 9, 2002

Dear....

Thank you very much for agreeing to participate in the Regional Pond Subcommittee's planning group discussion on October 16, 2002. We look to the members of the planning group to verify that the Subcommittee is on the right track in addressing the issues raised about the regional pond program and that we will satisfy the requirements of the Environmental Coordinating Committee.

Background of Study

On January 28, 2002, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to form a multi-agency committee to develop a unified position on the use of regional ponds, as well as alternative types of stormwater controls, as watershed management tools. The Board's action was prompted in part by community discussion which arose in conjunction with a special exception amendment application to install the Dartmoor Regional Pond D-40 in the Sully District. The Board has deferred that special exception application indefinitely until the regional pond program is reviewed comprehensively. In addition, on February 25, 2002, the Board directed staff to review the issues outlined in an Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) resolution regarding regional stormwater management.

In response to the Board's requests, the Fairfax County Environmental Coordinating Committee, a group of representatives from County agencies that share in the County's environmental mission, chartered a Regional Pond Subcommittee consisting of the County's Environmental Coordinator and members from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), the Department of Planning and Zoning, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Environmental Quality Advisory Council.

The Subcommittee is working to identify the issues; review current policy, regulations, and practices; research the experience of other jurisdictions; review alternatives to regional ponds; engage representative stakeholders in discussion, and report its findings and conceptual recommendations to the Environmental Coordinating Committee. The ECC plans to forward a report and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in December 2002.

Regional Pond Subcommittee Planning Group

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Enclosures

The following background information is enclosed: April 22, 2002 memorandum from the Deputy County Executive to the Board of Supervisors with a copy of the Subcommittee's charter and the above-referenced EQAC resolution, and a list of those invited for this planning group discussion.

Meeting Details

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2002, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. in Room 107 of the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway. Room 107 is on the ground level in the back of the building facing the parking garage. If you enter through the front entrance, pass the elevators and turn right. Go through two sets of doors and look for Room 107 on the left.

Again, we appreciate very much your taking the time on October 16 to discuss the Subcommittee's regional pond study. Your insights will help us prepare for a public meeting on November 19, 2002. We anticipate that the public meeting participants will include representatives of the various stakeholder groups interested in this issue: citizens, homeowner and civic association officers, environmental groups, land use professionals, and members of the development community. During the public meeting, we will ask the participants to provide their concepts of what the regional pond program ought to include. We look forward to working with you. Please call either of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Bouchard, Director, Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES
Co-Chair, Regional Pond Subcommittee
703-324-5500

Diane Hoffman, District Administrator, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
Co-Chair, Regional Pond Subcommittee
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